

Appl. No. 10/791,333
Amdt. Dated 07/13/2005
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC Sec. 102 on Tuthill (USP 4,491,825), claims 3-12 were merely objected to as depending on a rejected claim and claims 13-30 were allowed. Claims 3, 4, 10 and 12, which depended directly on rejected independent claim 1, have been cancelled and rewritten as new independent claims 31 through 34. Also the dependency of dependent claims 5, 6 and 11 has been changed in accordance with the cancellation and presentation of the new claims. Accordingly it is believed that claims 5 through 9, 11 and 13 through 34 are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 2 on Tuthill, it is to be noted that claim 1 provides for "an A bit primary resistor string" and "a plurality of buffer amplifiers, each buffering a respective node between resistors of the primary resistor string, outputs of the buffer amplifiers and ends of the primary resistor string defining $2^A + 1$ primary string nodes". Thus there are $2^A - 1$ buffer amplifiers, one at each node between resistors in the primary resistor string. In comparison, Tuthill discloses two amplifiers, A1 and A2, which are switched between nodes as required to couple the appropriate nodes to the ladder network.

Further, claim 1 also requires "a plurality M of B bit secondary resistor strings, the nodes between resistors and ends of each secondary resistor string defining $2^B + 1$ secondary string nodes; and, a plurality of primary string switches coupled to each primary string node, an output of each switch being coupled to an end of a respective secondary resistor string." Thus in the present invention as claimed in claim 1, there are a plurality M of B bit secondary resistor strings, whereas Tuthill discloses only a single ladder network as a secondary string. Also as just stated, claim 1 requires a plurality of primary string switches coupled to each primary string node, an output of each switch being coupled to an end of a respective secondary resistor string, which allows each primary string node to be selectively coupled to an end of one or more secondary strings at any time. Clearly Tuthill does not disclose any such arrangement. Accordingly reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 on Tuthill is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submitted an Electronic Information Disclosure Statement on October 19, 2004. Inasmuch as the outstanding Office Action does not contain an acknowledged copy of the Electronic Information Disclosure Statement, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the same and encloses a courtesy copy of the communication for the Examiner's convenience.

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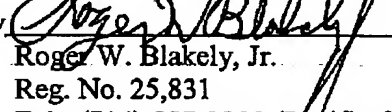
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 07/13/2005

By 
Roger W. Blakely, Jr.
Reg. No. 25,831
Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

Attachment

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

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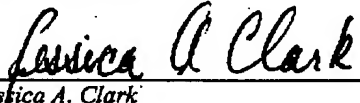
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Jessica A. Clark
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